

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

21 NOVEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Iraq

a. The new 21-man cabinet appears to be a coalition of Arab nationalist elements including four members of the moderate wing of the Baath Party. The regime is still dominated by the military, with eight cabinet posts.

b. The new prime minister, Tahir Yahya, is sympathetic to the Baath Party

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c. The political affiliation of eight of the new ministers is not known, but the key interior post is in the hands of an anti-Baathist nationalist.

2. Indonesia

a. Defense Minister Nasution has been ordered by Sukarno to make conciliatory statements on Malaysia while on his trip abroad.

b. The Dutch chargé who reported this explained that Nasution was chosen for this job because Sukarno was irritated with the ultra-tough line the defense minister has taken.

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c. The chargé has no information on the motives behind this switch. Our embassy thinks it may be a move to pave the way for exploratory talks by Foreign Minister Subandrio at Bangkok with his Thai and Philippine counterparts. It may also be meant to provide a more receptive attitude for Nasution's visit here.

d. Our embassy thinks Nasution went in for his Malaysia sabre rattling on Sukarno's orders, or at the very least, with the president's tacit support. Sukarno may feel Nasution has stolen some of his thunder.

3. Congo

a. Adoula still did not get around to announcing the expulsion of all Soviet and Czech embassy personnel yesterday. However, his people managed on Tuesday afternoon to corral and hog-tie the Soviet counselor and press attaché before they could eat-up all the incriminating papers in their possession.

b. The Russians are now being held at Ndolo prison.

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c. The Belgian ambassador thinks these papers are probably genuine. He says the Russians have made the mistake of underrating the Congolese and have stumbled into a surete trap.

d. The Congolese also picked up two Czech diplomats but have since released them. This morning they arrested the correspondent of the Soviet news agency.

4. Ethiopia-Congo

a. Haile Selassie is planning to withdraw all Ethiopian troops from the Congo in January

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b. The two battalions of Ethiopians provide the guts of the UN operation. They had been slated to stay until June and are likely to be very difficult to replace.

c. The Emperor reportedly ordered the withdrawal on grounds that the troops are urgently needed in Ethiopia, particularly in view of the Soviet military accord with Somalia.

d. Our ambassador has asked to see the Emperor, as well as the prime minister and foreign minister, to press for reconsideration.

5. Yemen

a. Military activity has slackened but the stalemate continues.

b. Egypt still has about 32,000 troops in Yemen

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6. Turkey

a. The opposition Justice Party, heir of the old Menderes regime, appears to have won a victory in Sunday's nationwide local elections on the basis of incomplete returns.

b. The collapse of Prime Minister Inonu's coalition government appears increasingly likely. Though a new coalition may be formed, there will be considerable resistance to the retention of Inonu as prime minister.

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c. Justice Party members will be putting on pressure for early national parliamentary elections. However their party leaders do not believe the Turkish military, which ousted Menderes in 1960, would permit them to take over if they won new elections.

d. They will probably try to work out some rapprochement with the armed forces.

NOTES

A. Cuba

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B. Berlin Local East German troops

[REDACTED] appear to have been responsible for turning high powered searchlights on pilots taking off from West Berlin's Tempelhof airfield on 14-16 November. There were five such incidents.

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[REDACTED] There have been no further incidents reported since.

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C. Albania-USSR A Radio Tirana broadcast has accused Khrushchev of personally releasing Barghoorn for fear that Moscow's wheat deal with the US might collapse. The Albanians are on record as preferring to eat grass rather than to kowtow to the West, but they are not above eating Chinese wheat acquired from Western sources.

D. Iran-USSR The Soviet Union's timing seems to be off in Iran. [REDACTED] a twin engined plane was shot down in Iranian territory yesterday by Soviet jet fighters who violated Iranian air space. The Iranians say that the plane was on a photographic mission in connection with the

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government's land reform drive. The pilot was injured and his two passengers were killed. The incident comes at a time when Soviet President Brezhnev is visiting Tehran. He addressed a joint session of parliament today.

- E. Venezuela Police seem to have restored order in downtown Caracas, but terrorism continues elsewhere. The slum district of Caracas to which the terrorists retreated is under virtual martial law. Among other things, the Dupont paint warehouse at Maracaibo was set afire and totally destroyed.
- F. World Peace Council The WPC meeting in Warsaw next Thursday may wind up in another free-for-all. The Chinese Communist delegation, although not intent on disrupting the conference, plans to attack the WPC president's report

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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